

REMARKS

This response places the above-referenced patent application in better condition for allowance, and therefore, is a proper response after Final pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claims 21-22, 28, 32 and 45 are cancelled.

Claims 20, 22, 23, 28, 32, 34 and 45 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, independent claim 17 is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 22, and therefore, as amended, claim 17 is allowable.

Claims 18-20 and 23-24 depend from allowable claim 17, and therefore, claims 18-20 and 23-24 are allowable.

Independent claim 25 is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 28, and therefore, as amended, claim 25 is allowable.

Claims 26-27 and 29-30 depend from allowable claim 25, and therefore, claims 26-27 and 29-30 are allowable.

Independent claim 31 is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 32, and therefore, as amended, claim 31 is allowable.

Claims 33-35 depend from allowable claim 31, and therefore, claims 33-35 are allowable.

Independent claims 36-38 are allowed.

Independent claim 39 is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 45, and therefore, as amended, claim 39 is allowable.

Claims 40-44 and 46-49 depend from allowable claim 39, and therefore, claims 40-44 and 46-49 are allowable.

New Independent claim 50 is rewritten independent claim 17 (before the amendment of this response) which is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 20, and therefore, claim 50 is allowable.

New Independent claim 51 is rewritten independent claim 17 (before the amendment of this response) which is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 23, and therefore, claim 51 is allowable.

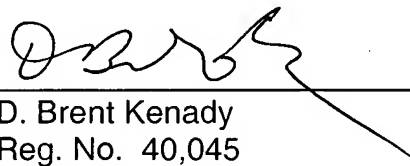
New Independent claim 52 is rewritten independent claim 31 (before the amendment of this response) which is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 34, and therefore, claim 52 is allowable.

Further, Applicant herewith submits a duplicate copy of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 filed in this application on August 5, 2004. No initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received back from the Examiner. To the extent that the submitted reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 has not already been considered, and the Form PTO-1449 has not been initialed with a copy being returned to Applicant, such examination and initialing are requested at this time, as well as return of a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 to the undersigned.

This application is now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12-17-04

By: 
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